

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble
Mayor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A statement from Mayor Steve Noble, clarifying the City of Kingston Ethics Board:

In early 2016, my administration began the process of revising the local ethics law in an effort to provide clarity and to ensure that the law was effective and enforceable. In doing so, it became apparent that the current Ethics Board would no longer be able to function effectively while this revision was taking place, and that steps were needed to change the appointment process of this board so that it was aligned with the city's other boards and commissions appointment processes.

About the Ethics Board

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of the individuals who served on the City's Ethics Board. In addition to their time and energy, the members contributed great skill and dedication to our community. At this time, I have decided to relieve the board members of their duties so that we may complete the Ethics Law revisions and launch a board appointment process that is most effective and appropriate.

Anticipated Changes in Appointment Process

It is my intent to implement a process that is more aligned with my administration's goals of expanding outreach to individuals to serve in these volunteer roles who have otherwise not had the opportunity to do so. In addition, it is my intent to support the Common Council to have more input into the selection of these critical appointments. I will be seeking recommendations from the Council and will require applications and interviews to select these new appointments. Lastly, as I am instituting with other boards and commissions, I plan to assign terms to the appointments to ensure that the administration reviews the qualifications and effectiveness of all members on a regular basis and encourages new volunteerism.

Resolution of Standing Complaints

The timing of these changes coincides with the resolution of all remaining complaints that were before the Ethics Board. The City may now move forward with changes to this local law and establish a board, using the new appointment process, without conflicting with any standing issues.

Conclusion

I will continue to inform the public of these changes as we move forward in this process. In addition, in the event that a complaint is brought forth prior to the new board appointments, I will respond accordingly by appointing temporary, emergency board members.

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